

3/31/15 Update on Sirenusa Condo Methyl Bromide Release, Cruz Bay, St. John

Today ventilation began on Units J upper and lower. J upper was ventilated first, air monitoring reading went down to background levels in approximately 10 minutes. Unit J lower was ventilated and air monitoring readings went down to background in approximately 30 minutes. Crews used fans to increase air flow, and the units were ventilated for approximately 5 hours. Levels of total VOCs directly outside openings to the units were all at background levels. The units have been closed and air monitoring for total VOC will be taken in the morning. Crews will determine tomorrow's ventilation schedule based on those readings

Preliminary results from Summa air samples taken on 3/27 should be received on 4/3. Results for the wipe samples taken last week will be available early next week. A flyer for residents and guests of the condominium was prepared and distributed 3/31. The flyer provides information about the building ventilation activities.

On 3/30/2015, ATSDR received the formal request for assistance from the USVI DOH. ATSDR is in the process of coordinating an Epi-Aid team to investigate other potential exposures to methyl bromide in the USVI.

OSC's on St. John are obtaining client and employee lists from the condo complex management companies. These lists will be provided to ATSDR as a starting point for their investigation. ATSDR has been provided contact information for both management companies and will contact them directly. EPA is assisting ATSDR with logistical support and will be providing the ATSDR team with office space on St. Thomas. This space is located in the Tunick Building where on island EPA personnel will share office space with ATSDR.

ATSDR will also be providing the USVI DOH with direct assistance in determining clearance values for the re-occupancy of the condominiums.

The REOC continued working with EPA ORC and Pesticides and Toxic Substances Branch to evaluate options for management of existing stocks of the fumigant, as well as the mechanisms for determining where the fumigant is currently stored, and how it has been utilized and/or stored in the past. Existing stocks have been identified at facilities on St. Thomas and St. Croix, consisting of one cylinder at each of two facilities. Staging locations for these cylinders and options for shipment to either proper disposal facilities or the original suppliers are being evaluated.

Tomorrow, crews will continue ventilation of Unit J upper and J lower. The units will be ventilated for several hours after which monitoring will be conducted to determine effectiveness.

R2 REOC remains the point of contact for all EPA's activities related to this incident.

Personnel on-site today included 2 OSCs and 1 RST contractor, a third OSC arrived today.

EPA is still working cooperatively with DPNR, the St. John Fire Department, the St. John Police Department, Terminix, ATSDR, the USVI DOH and the condo complex management company.